Payment of compensation for laying of land mines

3031. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the payment of crop compensation for land under mines has not been released as per data collected in 1st phase;

(b) is there any farmers whose land was included in the 1st phase but not in subsequent phases 2nd, 3rd and 4th;

(c) whether mines were laid in 2001 and removed in 2004 in all the border areas;

(d) whether payment has been released from 2001 to 2004 to all the land owners; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of left out cases and target date by which payment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The data collection and compilation has not been done in phases.

(c) The work of removal of mines laid in connection with Operation Parakram was completed in January, 2005.

(d) The payment has been sanctioned upto 31st December, 2003 to all areas except the land falling under Northern Command where payments have been sanctioned upto October, 2004. Payment upto December, 2004 has not been sanctioned since necessary procedures have not been completed.

(e) Two cases of left out payments have been reported. Payment is likely to be released by October, 2005.

Special Family Pension

3032. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Family Pension (SFP) is granted to widows/dependents in case of death of A.F. Personnel on duty and if death is caused/aggravated by his service in A.F;

(b) if so, the details of the criteria for awarding SFP;

(c) whether it takes years to decide such cases; if not, the average time taken in each case by different original/appellate authorities;

(d) whether decision of the competent authority in such cases are shared with the claimants; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) how many such cases were considered by AF, Record Office between January, 2004 to 31st March, 2005 and in how many cases SFP was awarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special Family Pension is granted to the widows/dependents of the deceased Armed Forces Personnel if the death is due to causes which are accepted as attributable to or aggravated by military service.

(c) Such cases are dealt with utmost priority. Since determination of atrributability requires enquiry by Board of Officers/assessment by Medical Boards and multiplicity of functionaries involved in the process of decision making, the average time taken to decide such cases is six months.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Only data regarding sanction of Special Family Pension are Centrally maintained. 1311 cases of Special Family Pension have been notified by the Pension Sanctioning Authorities during the period.

Facilities provided by Naval Authorities for chartered flights at Goa

3033. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities provided by Naval Authorities for the landing of chartered flights bringing in tourist at the Dabolim Airport in Goa;

(b) whether there is a demand for allowing more days and time for the landing facilities;

(c) whether Government has issued any instructions/guidelines in this regard;